THE NEWSLETTER FOR THE SEATTLE AREA TIMEX/SINCLAIR USERS

SWYM GROUP

JUNE 1990

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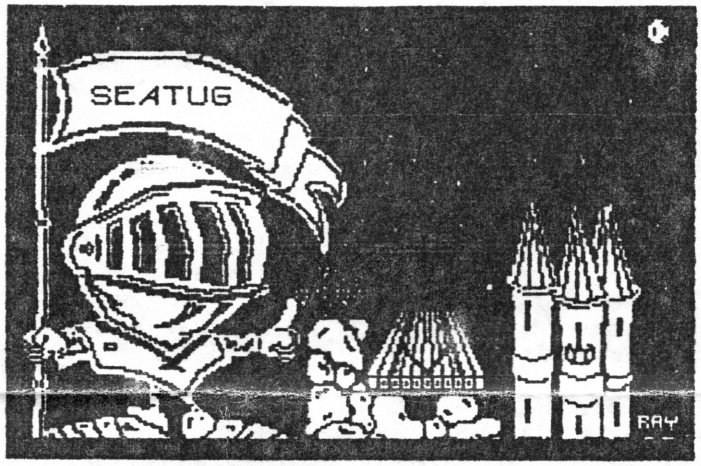
NUMBER 6



NEXT MEETING:
JUNE 7th, 1990
THURSDAY 7:30pm

8517 35th Ave. NE. Seattle
UNIVERSITY FEDERAL SAVINGS BANK

SEATUG General Info Address:
Derryck Turner
10909 N.E. 45th St.
Kirkland, Wa. 98033

NEWSLETTER SUBMISSIONS:
Chuck Kereluck
9013 32nd Ave. N.E.
Seattle, Wa. 98115

NEWSLETTER EXCHANGE:
Robert Cazares
118 N.W. 84th St.
Seattle, Wa. 98117-3044

SEATUG supports ZX/80, T/S 1000, T/S 1500, T/S 2068 and QL computers.

President:	Derryck Turner
V.P.	Gerry Desmaris
Secretary:	Malcolm Post
Treasurer:	Dave Battershill
Librarian:	Dale Fritz
Editors	Robert Cazares
	Chuck Kereluck

THIS MONTHS CONTENTS

1) Random Bits
By: Chuck Kereluck

2) Malcolm's Minutes
By: Malcolm Post

3) Russian Peasant Multiplication
By: Dale Fritz

4) Las Vegas Odds Evener revisited...
By: Derryck Turner

5) sinclair ECHO
By: Robert Cazares

6) Other tibits too
numerous to mention!!!

Files for SWYM may now be uploaded to the PhotoSynthesis BBS. TASWORD, MSCRIPT, and Pixel Print files are supported. Also WordPerfect 5.0, 5.1, and straight ASCII files are welcome.

PhotoSynthesis
24 hours
300/1200/2400
(206)782-7493

MINUTES WITH SEATUG

by Malcolm Post, Secretary

May 5, 1990

The meeting was called to order at 7:57 PM by President Derryck Turner. There were eleven people present.

The Treasurer, Dave Battershill, reported that as of April 30, the treasury contained $199.90.

Derryck reported that he had received a phone call from a Mr. E. A. Harbridge, of Orcas Island, stating that he had some Timex computer equipment that he no lomger wanted and that he was willing to give it to the Club, if he could find a use for it, rather than throw it out. Derryck assured him that we could make use of it, so Mr. Harbridge agreed to send it to us. Derryck brought the box of things to the meeting. It included the following:

1.) Sinclair ZX81 with 1K RAM
2.) Sinclair ZX81 with 2K RAM in a Jameco case with a JE610 keyboard
3.) 2 Timex 1016 RAM Packs
4.) Timex 2040 printer ser# 2034 546 (includes a partial roll of paper)
5.) DVE power supply #DV-2412A for above printer
6.) IQ-8300 (an advanced Orient-al version of the TS1000)
7.) Antenna/Computer switch for TV connection
8.) Timex cassette tape software (all requires 16K RAM)
    a. Automobile Analyzer
    b. The Organizer
    c. VU-CALC
9.) 2 TS1000 User manuals
10.) Sinclair ZX81 BASIC Programming
11.) The Timex Personal Computer Made Simple by Campbell, Sim inoff and Yates
12.) Package of thermal paper (2 rolls, Radio Shack #26-1332)
13.) Two rolls of adding machine paper (2.25 inches wide)

A discussion followed as to the disposition of this gift. One suggestion was to auction the entire package as a sealed bid. Another was to have the Club retain it in a form of a lending library. A third suggestion was to set up operating systems and to donate the equipment and assistance to those needy persons who could make good use of them for learning computer programming and operation. Since there were no computer power supplies or cables, additional items would be needed to make workable systems. Also, we did not know if the equipment was in working order. Action was deferred until the next meeting, when the condition of the equipment would be known. Chuck volunteered to check the IQ-8300 and Malcolm would check the other items.

The business portion of the meeting was adjourned at 8:20.

Chuck Kereluck demonstrated the Roklan Un-Roller Controller, discussed in the Hardware Review of the April issue of SWYM. Then, he proceeded to show us how he uses his 24-pin Star printer.

Robert Cazares brought his Sinclair QL and demonstrated its abilities. His demonstration included connecting to his BBS. He stated that he has not experienced the thermal problems as others are plagued by.

NEWSLETTER NEWS

NEWS AND TIDBITS FROM OTHER CLUBS AND POINTS BEYOND—R.C.

SEATUG welcomes new members Mike Di Rienzo from Seattle and Ike Walker from South Charleston, West Virginia. Thanks for your support!

Our newsletter exchange is going well. Sincus news reports they will cease publishing after their July/August issue. Sincus News didn't die, they just went MS-DOS! The Capital Area T/S Group sent us a newletter and package containing six cassette tapes. The tapes are of CATS public domain library that SEATUG purchased. CATS BBS: (301)588-0579. 8-1-N. 300/1200 baud. News and general information 24 hours a day.

Timex SIG on Compuserve: Wednesday night, 7:00pm PDT (GO CLUB)

TECHNICAL TALK-NOTES-DIAGRAMS-DATA-SUGGESTIONS-INFORMATION...

Random Bits

TECHNICAL TALK-NOTES-DIAGRAMS-DATA-SUGGESTIONS-INFORMATION...

by Chuck Kerelick

THE LAST ISSUE OF SNYM?

There's a very interesting proposal, floating about at SNUG, that could directly affect all remaining clubs' newsletters.

The proposal, published last month in SNUG ROUND-UP, says, in part, "the local user groups would prepare their newsletter material, forward it to SNUG,who then would prepare a final piece collate it, print it up and then mail it to the membership."

Sounds like a logical idea, right? After all, it's always been the work of the individual newsletters to come up with fresh material. To not take advantage of this great resource is crazy! Besides, how much EXTRA can even a national organization come up with, every month?

A concern was mentioned about competing with the smaller clubs due to duplication of their material. Let's think about this, and expand on it, for a moment, shall we?

First of all, there already is a free newsletter trade going on among most clubs. And while it is true that not everyone will actually see everyone else's newsletter (not because they're kept hidden--anybody can ask see what we have), if various articles get republished in SNUG ROUND-UP, there will be a lot there that will have already been read, previously.

What to do about this? In order for our much-valued national organization to publish an effective magazine, it has to have original material. And we all need SNUG to be successful. The only way around this dilemma, it seems, is to not have that "secondary dissemination", that they are worried about, but have it as the ONLY dissemination. In other words, the individual UGs would support SNUG and ROUND-UP, each month, by mailing their newsletters to them, instead of their respective individual memberships. SNUG would then turn around and mail this fresh, accumulated material to the clubs, who could then disperse it to their individual members,or SNUG could take charge of the whole thing and mail it out to EVERYBODY. This would mean that a good portion of the yearly accumulated UG dues would also be forwarded to SNUG, to help cover publication and mailings. See how nicely things flow along?

Another thing that this would mean, is that all individual NLs would lose their individual flavor. In essence, they would disappear, to 'turn up' among the pages of ROUND-UP.

This is an interesting line of thought. Do we keep churning out information and articles each month, with the editors acting as a forwarding station to the main distribution point? This will definitely further SNUG and ROUND-UP, albeit at the expense of NL individuality. But does that even matter? As they say in the Star Trek movies, "The good of the many (SNUG members) outweighs the good of the one (a single newsletter)."

One thing's for sure: With all articles going into a huge 'melting pot', there will be less pressure on each editor, every month, to crank out as much as he can!

The above is just an extension of an idea already proposed. Talk it over with other members of your club and write your opinions to SNUG, c/o Paul Holmgren, 5231 Wilton Wood Ct., Indianapolis, IN 46254.

NO SPLIT ARTICLES!

Last month, we ran the first half of Derryck Turner's excellent contribution, "Las Vegas Odds Evener." After a while, we decided to change our minds about doing that to such fine work. After all, don't you just hate it, when you just get into reading an interesting article and suddenly, you come to a part that says, "continued next month"?? I know I do! By the time the second month rolls around, you've forgotten what the first part was all about!

Rest assured, we won't be doing that to you, or the author, again. Therefore, we are reruning the first half of "Las Vegas Odds Evener" to present it as a single piece, not as a couple of fragmented ones. Enjoy.

STILL WORKING ON V5.0

Hard at work, we are continuing to convert Stan Lemke's latest desktop offering,PIXEL PRINT PROFESSIONAL V5.0. This looks to be a much better version than past ones, needing 32K of extra RAM for most of the exotic functions. However, it's written in 'Aerco disk.' Anybody translate?

LAS VEGAS ODDS EVENER

by Derryck Turner

How many times should you shuffle a pack of cards to effectively randomize the distribution?

An article was recently published claiming it takes seven shuffles to mix a pack of cards. After studying the problem with the aid of my trusty 2068,I concluded it takes only six!

Referring to the aforementioned article, it stated that the average player employs only three or four shuffles, maximum. This seemed to be an interesting finding. However, this was a typical newapaper article, which gave no details of the work and, in any case, the mathematics were more than I was prepared to tackle from scratch. When visiting Vancouver B.C. a few weeks ago, I read another article which gave a few more details of the work, including a plot, purporting to show the maximum movement of the top card in relation to the number of shuffles. I could not understand the plot (I still can't--I think it's wrong!) but it made me start thinking and gave me clue as to how to solve the problem.

My analysis follows:

First,let's consider the shuffling process: When a pack of cards is shuffled in a conventional manner, the 52 card pack is split into two packs of 26 each. The two 26 card packs are then "riffled" together, so that each card from one pack goes above or below the corresponding card in the other. This operation, I call a RIFFLE, while the total number of RIFFLES employed before dealing,I call a SHUFFLE. This process is somewhat idealized,as in normal circumstances, some cards will stick together, some blocks of cards will not be riffled but inserted in the other pack in a random manner and various other irregularities will occur. However, these irregualrities will tend to increase the random nature of the shuffle, so that the "idealized" shuffle offers a conservative approach.

What happens to the top card in the course of several riffles? Refer to the illustration in Figure 1. After the first riffle, it will be immediately above or below the top card from the other pack; i.e., it will be in the top(1) or second from the top (2) position. The lowest position it can be in is (2). After the next riffle, the lowest position possible will be (4), then (8), then (16), etc. After n riffles, its lowest possible position will be 2↑n.

CARD SHUFFLING

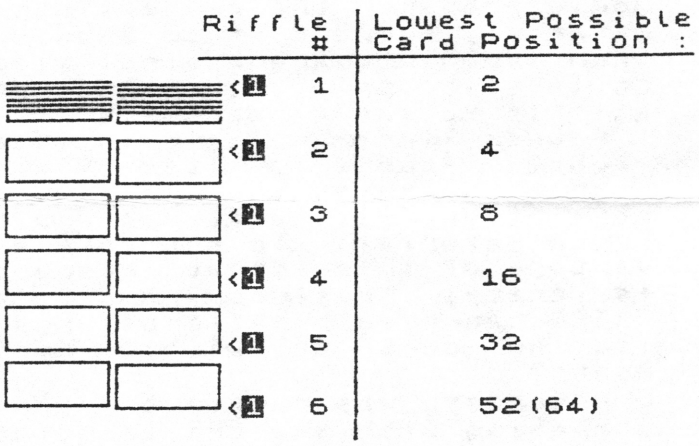


Figure 1

After one riffle, the odds are 1 in 2 it will be in any position between (1) and (2). After the second riffle, the odds are 1 in 4 it will be in any position between (1) and (4). After the third riffle, the odds wil be 1 in 8 between positions (1) and (8), etc. This process is shown in Figure 2 for riffles 1 to 5. After riffle 5, the fun starts!

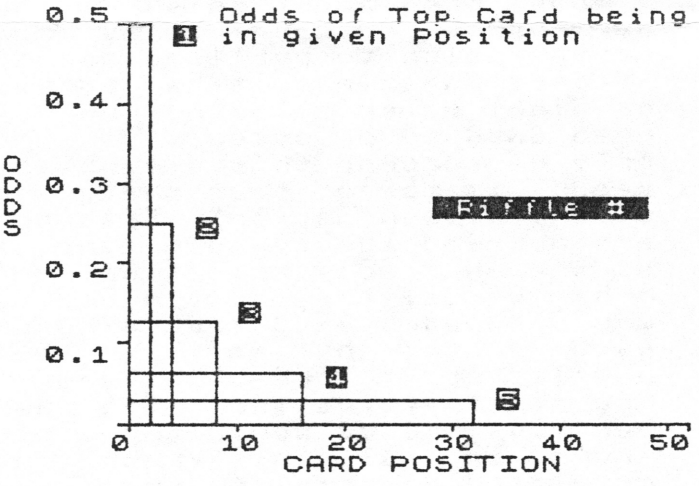


Figure 2

If the pack were large enough, then, following riffle 5, the odds would be 1 in 64 between (1) and (64). Since there are only 52 cards in the pack, the odds are 1 in 64 it will be between (1) and (52) PLUS 1 in 64 between (1) and (12), i.e., the odds are 2 in 64 between (1) and (12) and 1 in 64 between (13) and (52).

Following this line of reasoning, Table 1 shows what happens for riffles 1 to 12.

RIFFLE	POS	ODDS	POS	ODDS	POS
1	1	1/2	2		
2	1	1/4	4		
3	1	1/8	8		
4	1	1/16	16		
5	1	1/32	32		
6	1	2/64	12	1/64	52
7	1	3/128	24	2/128	52
8	1	5/256	48	4/256	52
9	1	10/512	44	9/512	52
10	1	20/1024	36	19/1024	52
11	1	40/2048	20	39/2048	52
12	1	79/4096	40	78/4096	52

Table 1

It can be seen that this process can be continued indefinitely but the odds of the top card being in any position will never be even, i.e., 1/52 for positions (1) to (52), although the more riffles there are, the more nearly this situation will be approached.

Next, let's use the abilities of the TS2068 to plot, print and generate random numbers to simulate a few riffles and see what happens!

Table 2 shows the distribution of the top card for ten shuffles of nine riffles each. 'Mi' and 'Ma' are the minimum and maximum positions, respectively, for each shuffle.

NUMBER OF SHUFFLES : 9

	Riffle #								
RUN	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
TOP	2	4	8	16	32	52	52	52	52	52
1	1	1	1	1	1	2	3	6	11	21
2	1	1	1	1	2	4	8	16	31	9
3	1	2	4	8	16	32	11	22	44	35
4	1	1	2	4	7	14	27	2	4	7
5	2	3	6	11	22	44	35	18	36	19
6	2	3	6	12	23	46	39	25	49	45
7	2	3	6	12	24	48	44	35	18	35
8	1	1	2	4	7	13	25	50	47	41
9	2	4	7	13	26	51	50	47	41	30
Mi	1	1	1	1	1	2	3	2	4	7
Ma	2	4	7	13	26	51	50	50	49	45

Table 2

Figure 3 is a graphical representation of the riffles in Table 2.

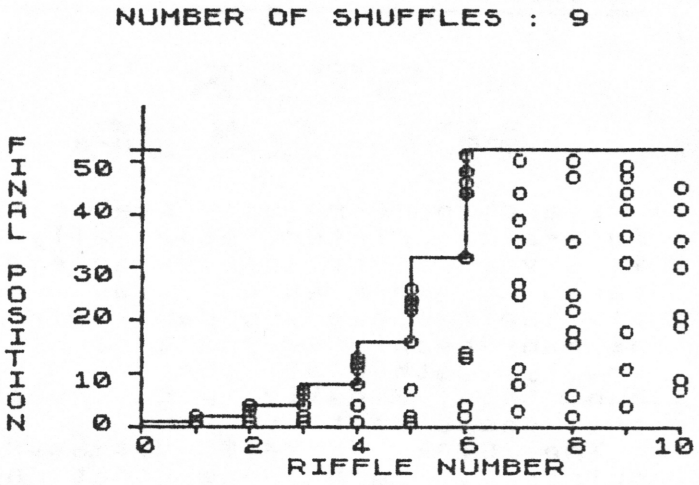


Figure 3

Finally, let's simulate 300 shuffles and record the distribution of the final position of the top card after 5, 6 and 7 riffles. This is shown Figure 4. The odds for each riffle are also outlined on each plot. It can be seen that there is a significant change from five to six riffles -- the distribution covers 52 instead of 32 possible positions. From six to seven riffles, the change is negligible.

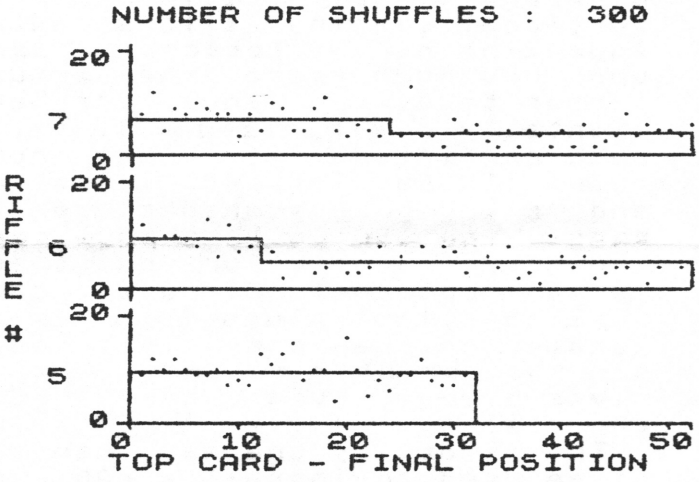


Figure 4

A few conclusions can now be drawn:

Using an "idealized" shuffling process, it would take an infinite number of riffles to perfectly shuffle a pack of cards, such that the odds of a card finishing in any of the 52 possible positions would be 1 in 52.

Odds Evener, cont'd...

HARDWARE REVIEW

STAR NX-2410

Searching for just the right full-size printer, especially if it's your first, can be an exasperating experience. You read all the reviews you can; talk to as many people as you can; generally, gather all the info you can, then, finally, pick the one that feels best, to you.

The STAR NX-2410 dot-matrix printer is such a one that has gone thru all that, and more. It has not disappointed.

Weighing in at a stable 14.1 pounds, measuring up at 16.1" X 12.9" X 4.7" (W-D-H),the NX-2410 is a 24-pin model that will put other printers, especially most 9-pinners, to shame.

Why? Mostly, because it's just jam-packed with quality features! Take the front panel, for instance: From there, one can select 10 different font styles-draft, courier, prestige,script, orator and italicized versions of all those. Also, for each of those selections, one can print them in 10 characters-per-inch, 12 CPI or 15 CPI, condensed and/or proportional spacing! Proportional spacing allows extra squeezing of the letters, based upon how much space the actual letter takes up. Thus, for horizontally minimized letters, such as 'i' and 'l', other horizontally fat letters, like 'W' and 'E', can be pushed closer to them. And if all this isn't enough font mania for you, there is an optional circuit card available,that plugs into a slot located on the lower left edge of the printer's front, that gives you even more font choices!

That slot, by the way, can also be used to install a RAM card (another option) to increase the printer's normal 7K buffer to around 30K. Large buffers are nice for freeing up the computer while printing those really humongous text files.

While the actual front panel controls appear few and are grouped into a relatively small area, they actually represent many functions. Besides the font selections already detailed, the four membrane switches (Membrane switches? Shades of the TS1000!) can activate 16 different functions! This is accomplished via different switch combinations. So, not only can you go on/off-line, do a paper feed, engage a quiet mode and select font style and pitch but you can also clear the buffer, do a forward or reverse micro-linefeed, do a page feed, go to top-of-form,activate paper parking when going from sprocket to single-sheet feed, engage the Stay-in Panel Style and/or Pitch(useful for preventing software from changing front panel selections), print a long or short self-test and print a diagnostically useful hex dump of all incoming commands and characters! Whew! All this from just the front panel!

Had enough features? There's more! It turns out, that where the NX-2410 really shines is in it's software-accessible command set! All kinds of things start crawling out of the woodwork when you poke around, here.

For instance,if you think that all those fonts were enough for you, how about 10 more?? That's right: Through various 'escape' commands, you can choose double-height, double-width, triple-width, double-sized, quad-sized, outline, shadowed, outline-with-shadowed, emphasized and double-strike characters! And let's not forget underlining, overlining, superscript, subscript, dot graphics (my favorite) and the ability to download into the printer your own personalized characters!

Once you get settled into this, you get to play with different line-spacing possibilities. How does one go about choosing between 1/8-inch, 1/6-inch, 7/60-inch, 7/72-inch or any multiples of n/60, n/72, n/180, n/216 or n/360?? I don't know,but they're all there! Actually, you'll be glad they are when it comes time to configure for correct 2068 graphic reproductions.

Speaking of graphics, a wide range of densities are available with just the right escape code. Anything from 60, 80, 90, 120, 240 and 360 DPI, in 8 and 24-bit formats, are yours, for the asking.

Other interesting features include bi-directional printing for text and uni-directional for graphics, a speed of 150 CPS for draft and 50 CPS for LQ, selectable international character sets(more fonts!), both friction

NX-2410 cont'd...

and tractor feed, the latter being of the push variety.

In addition, the Star NX-2410 prints much more quietly than the Panasonic model previously reported on. Oddly enough, the db rating wasn't available from the manual, but my own tests confirmed this. This strict, tightly - controlled, scientific experiment consisted of performing self-tests on each printer, as it sat on a coffee table in my living room. Because different environments will produce different effective db levels, a living room was chosen because of its sound-absorbing characteristics due to furniture, carpet, etc. If something sounds noisy here, it's NOISY! The responsive control in this experiment was my wife's ear. When the Panasonic was grinding out its self-test, the response was, "What a racket!" When the Star was doing the same thing at the identical spot,the response was, "That is much quieter!" So there you have it. Science once again triumphs!

For all of you 'mainstream computer' users out there, this gem will emulate Epson LQ-800 or IBM Proprinter X24 printer modes or anything compatible with either one. For you 2068 users, it will print any MSCRIPT, TASWORD or ASCII textfiles or anything else you can throw at it from Tech Draw Jr., PIX-FX, any SCREEN$ or even Pixel Print!This last choice will take some special configuration from within the program to produce proportionally-correct graphics. This means printing circles that come out as circles and not elipses. We're still working this problem. Other graphics software may require this special attention, as well. However, using a plain-vanilla Tech Draw Jr., circles do print correctly when configured for Epson printers! Other things that work, include using the Literal Mode from with in the Aerco/2068 driver program. This is where the real fun comes in, as you try out all the different printer control codes. QL artwork prints very nicely, as well. TS1000 output would no doubt work, with the appropriate software, but unless you're using one of several hi-res programs to produce graphics, it be a waste of hardware. I'll have to try this out for a later article. And, of course, any IBM graphics look absolutely great.

cont'd again...

COMING IN THE JULY ISSUE OF SWYM

IQ-8300 REVIEW

STAN LEMKE NEWS

PIX-FX REVIEW

BILL FERREBEE NEWS

MORE LARRY ZUNK ADS

DON'T MISS IT!

RUSSIAN PEASANT MULTIPLICATION

by Dale Fritz

This is a method to multiply two integers, using only addition, doubling and halving. Granted, it is not as fast as out decimal system, but how does it work?

In semi-English (that is, this is the basis for writing your own program; it almost *is*, already, without the line numbers!):

```
    Input x,y
    Let Product=0
(1) If x is 0 then print Product
    STOP
    If x is odd, then let
    Product=Product + y
    Let x=INT(x/2)
    If x>0 then let y=2*y
    Go To 1
```

As an example, let x=22 and y=37. Following the "program", we yeild the following results:

STOP	Product	x	y
0	0	22	37
1	0	11	74
2	74	5	148
3	222	2	296
4	222	1	592
5	814	0	592

```
6 Print 814:STOP
```

Try this: x=64, y=13

"I know how it works, now!"

Oh, yeah? Try this:
x=63, y=13

"On second thought, how *does* it work??"

Las Vegas Odds Evener, cont'd..

If less than SIX riffles are employed,the pack is not properly shuffled.

SEVEN riffles do not significantly improve the shuffle of the pack over SIX.

Since, in practice, the pack is not ideally shuffled, FOUR riffles probably, effectively "randomize" the pack for all practical purposes.

THOUGHTS FOR FURTHER WORK:

What is the effect of an imperfect riffle?

- cards being interleaved not 1 to 1 but in blocks of size say, 1 to 5
- only part of the pack gets riffled

Examine other methods of shuffling the pack, e.g., building a pack in one hand by taking the top and bottom cards from the pack in the other hand.

♡♠
♣◇

NX-2410 finale...

Are there any negative points about this wonder printer? To be honest, yes.

First of all, there is the graphics printing with the 2068, or other 8-bit computer systems. Once instructing the printer to get into an 8-bit graphics mode (printing 8-bit graphics into a 24-bit graphics mode does *not* work), one thing becomes immediately apparent: The images just aren't as dark as those printed from a PC using the 24-bit mode. This isn't really a flaw, just the nature of the 'beast.' The 24-bit mode is much denser, of course, producing darker images with greater resolution.

A real weakness is with the light, plastic clamps that hold the paper, when using tractor feed. If that paper isn't going in arrow straight, expect some jamming at the tractor point. Another minus is the hinge catch on the lid, under where ribbon and print head are accessed.With just a slight amount of extra forward force applied with the lid up, the catches will break. I know. I've done one, already. The single sheet feeding shute, supplied, also seems prone to a similar effect. Compared to all the previous features, however, one shouldn't bitch too loudly. Those attending last month's meeting can attest to its many features.

If you're looking for a 24-pin printer, try this one. RMG, Midwest Micro and others carry it.

Sinclair ECHO
by: R. Cazares

The Sinclair ECHO is provided via The Bull Pen, Portland, OR. and Puget Sound Gateway, Puyallup, WA.

Message #251 "SINCLAIR"
Date: 10-Mar-90 15:54
From: Tim Ward
To: All
Subj: Public Domain Libraries, 1000 and 2068

Hello to all dedicated T/S Users. Tim Ward and Tony Willing have discovered the Sinclair Users Echo! Glad to be here and reading the messages. We just picked up MAXCOM and a 2068 LKDOS (from RMG Ent., plug, plug...) and are On-Line. We would like to say we still offer a large Public Domain Library for the TS-1000 and 2068, both on C-60 cassette and LKDOS discs for BOTH computers. Contact Tim Ward for the 1000 at 5142-D Gingko Dr. SW, Tacoma, WA 98439... 2068 Users contact Tony Willing at POB 199, Vashon, WA 98070... $4.00 per tape/disc, either machine, info packet LSASE, 45 cents. Thanks and Keep on Timexin'.
Sinclairly, Tim Ward and Tony Willing--- ConfMail V3.31
* Origin: Sail Away, Catalina 42 -- 206/566-8854 HST 14.4 (1:138/3)

Message #754 "SINCLAIR"
Date: 11-Mar-90 11:38
From: Dick Sieg
To: Steven Blackford
Subj: Mini-BBS

>----------
> HELP!!!!! Besides wanting a BBS program for the QL, I was wondering if anyone out
>there know where I can get a copy of a BBS program for the T/S1000. A few years
>back, there was a program called 'Micro BBS-1' written by Gordon Young. It was for
>the T/S1000 w/ 16K & a Byte Back MD-II modem. Does anyone know where I can get
>a copy of this?????
>----------

Steven, We can help you. James Dupuy would be glad to send you the programs you need, write him or I can forward a message to him. Files can be also be D/L from Timelines BBS. -= Dick Sieg =-

Timex/Sinclair Users Group of Greater Cleveland, Ohio
==========
One of the oldest User Groups in the area, Meets 23 times a year. East side group meets the first Friday each month. At the Euclid Sq Mall 7:30pm. in the Euclidian Room. West side group meets the third Friday each month (except Dec)7:00 at the Lakewood Library. We publish a monthly News Letter. > THE RAMTOP <
We have a club bbs called TIMELINES BBS ----------216-671-6922 8-N-1
Open 10:00pm to 6:00am 7 days,
We maintain a SIG on the Cleve. FreeNet BBS ----------216-368-3888 E-7-1
We also have a large program library for all models of T/S equipment.....
For info contact: James G. Dupuy (editor of the RAMTOP)
6514 Bradley Ave. (Down), Parma, Ohio 44129
==========
--- msged 1.952S ZTC
* Origin: NEOPC CLUB, Rocky River, Ohio, a Point of PC OHIO II (1:157/200.21)

sinclair ECHO

Puget Sound Gateway Fido
(206)848-9232
24 hours

Bullpen BBS
(503)652-5803
24 hours

Message #1342 "SINCLAIR"
Date: 16-Mar-90 11:12
From: Gaylen Bench
To: All Seattle Users.
Subj: Call a Friend.

Over the last few weeks I have been working with Al Stone to get his 2068 working with a 1200 baud modem, though the use of a Z-sio board. I believe that I was able to get up and running with his sytem today. Would some one of you in the Seattle area call him and give him the phone number of the local fidonet BBs that he can call. This would make it possible for him to communicate with the rest of us by using the Sinclair Unite sig.
Thanks for your assistance. A Fellow Sinclair User. Gaylen W. Bench
--- QuickBBS 2.64/O [De Oppresso Liber]
* Origin: <=-Sinclair Users Unite!-=> [Milwaukie, Oregon] (1:105/204)

Message #1348 "SINCLAIR"
Date: 16-Mar-90 17:02
From: Joe Newman
To: Steven Blackford
Subj: Re:mini-bbs

Steve:
I got about 30K of QL BBS program...'cept that it don't work!!!
I worked on it over a year, trying to create what I called "BBS BASIC", which is a collection of QL procedures and functions so that anyone could quickly and easily set up their own custom BBS. All the routines worked great-- in theory. During tests that routed serial port output to screen instead, everything worked. But when tryingto work through serial ports, I got a horrible mess. Just couldn't get it to work,and I know its because of the way the QL's serial ports operate (multiplexed through one chip that does other stuff as well). At this time I don't even remember which pieces of the program were any good-- I've got several disks that say "QL BBS stuff" on them! But if you wish I could send you copies of all of them if you sent me some disks. (I have 720K 5.25" drives). Features include log on bulletin, user log, passwords, Email, private messages, mulitple message bases, Sysop control and interupts, and the other typical BBS stuff.
===> Joe Newman <====
If you wish to send disks:
421 Montgomery Road, Suite 131
Altamonte Springs, FL 32714
(407) 774-7101

Message #178 "SINCLAIR"
Date: 10-Mar-90 01:19
From: Rod Gowen
To: Dick Sieg
Subj: Hello !

Welcome to the Echo Dick! I too, am a founding member of our local TS group, also with many of the original members still very active! I also co-founded this National Sinclair Echo for all TSers the world over. Hope you are enjoying and will continue to enjoy it! Later....Rod
EM (Echo Moderator)--- via Quickpoint XRS 3.1
* Origin: Rod Gowen - 503/655-7484 Noon-10 PM Pacific Tue- (Quick1:105/204.2)

sinclair ECHO

Puget Sound Gateway Fido
(206)848-9232
24 hours

Bullpen BBS
(503)652-5803
24 hours

Message #866 "SINCLAIR" (RECEIVED)
Date: 13-Apr-90 07:16
From: Les Brown
To: Ed Grey
Subj: Re: SAM'S FOR T/S1000 & T/S2068

Hi Ed, Great I want the sams for the ts1000 and the 2068. watch your mail box for my order. Les--- TBBS v2.1/NM * Origin: <T>he <S>erial <P>ort - Michigan's Timex Place 313-286-0145 (120/48)

Message #868 "SINCLAIR" (RECEIVED)
Date: 13-Apr-90 07:25
From: Les Brown
To: Mike Finn
Subj: Re: NEWSLETTER

Hi Mike, I belong to a small group of users in michigan. We are starting our own newsletter and hope to pass it on to groups who will reciprocate. We would be happy to write up any articles that are sent our way. either by mail or to the serial port bbs as a text file. phone+= 313-286-0145.
My phone is 313-296-3450 Les--- TBBS v2.1/NM
* Origin: <T>he <S>erial <P>ort - Michigan's Timex Place 313-286-0145(120/48)

Message #881 "SINCLAIR"
Date: 14-Apr-90 12:53
From: Ed Grey
To: Les Brown
Subj: Re: SAM'S FOR T/S1000 & T/S2068

I will be looking for your order Les. BTW, I understand that Ann Arbor will soon be a PC-Pursuitable city, hopefully that'll mean that the Serial Port will be accessable. Let's keep our fingers crossed. Is the Serial Port a local call to downtown Ann Arbor, if so it should be PC-Pursuitable and I'll be able to check you out first hand. Take care.
Ed Grey, Sysop of Grey Matter BBS (213-971-6260)
--- QuickBBS 2.64/O [De Oppresso Liber]
* Origin: -=]THE BULL PEN[=- << QuickBBS/D'Bridge >> (503) 652-5803 (1:105/204)

Message #1084 "SINCLAIR"
Date: 14-Apr-90 22:00
From: David Solly
To: All
Subj: Canadian T/S BBS

Sir Clive's Castle BBS, Ottawa, Ontario, Canada.
Now online 24 hours a day at (613)745-8838. 1200/300 Baud.
T/S 2068 U/D's
HiSoft Pascal SIG and Source Code Listings
LARKEN SIG: A place to get an answer to your LARKEN disc drive questions from the inventer himself.

Registry required but otherwise free of charge CALL SOON!!

ZX-83

By: Michael Stone

I hope a few other club members are looking forward to the 'sealed bid' auction that is going to happen at the next meeting. It would have been nice knowing which T/S 1000 items were working before the meeting, but that might be beyond the cause it was intended to do; raise extra money for the treasury.

For those that weren't at the meeting, or don't remember, someone had given to the club their old equipment. It came in a box to the club. Not knowing what or who would be interested in these things; an auction would be the best way of disposing of the equipment. There were three T/S 1000s, one in an original Jameco enclosure, another in original case and a ZX81. There is a green T/S clone with chicklet keys (I didn't know there were T/S clones?). A few 16k ram packs and a T/S printer.

Funny that this is going to happen at roughly the same time that Microsoft is announcing the most important news in the short history of small affordable computers; Windows 3.0. Like the computers that went before and paved a way for the products of today; a revolution is beginning in the dos computer way of doing things.

The reason the news from Microsoft is so interesting is the change from text based to graphic based applications, for the business computer. Not as important to the advancement of computers as the under $200 dollar computers, that the original Sinclair ZX80 sold for in kit form. Of greater importance as it directly affects the way computers are going to be used from this moment forward.

What will happen to the rest of the computer industry is up for discussion. Will a T/S 1000 be of greater value to the hobbist, than a Mac 128; or are the days of the hobbyist over. As great an idea as the first Mac was, it couldn't be small enough to be a controller for home robots, and it wasn't very powerful or fast. The ram left available for work was in the 8-16K range.

The original Mac Basic left 8K to write programs in. It was bundled with the original Mac Note and Mac Paint. It was the promise of the future this computer delivered, not the actual work it could do. Today, seven years since its introduction, the general computer industry is getting ready to use that form of computer use. (The fact that Xerox PARC and Apple and Microsoft are in legal battles over ownership of how you feel while looking at the screen, isn't important to the fact humans prefer the visual interface.)

I know many of you, like myself, were introduced to computers for the first time by the Timex/ Sinclair 1000. [I still get angry everytime I use the name Timex, and how their poor management, stopped the growth of the Sinclair computer.] I am trying to get my QL to work correctly, to feel more an active member of the group.

The TS1000s will provide some interesting competition for the parts to add to our collections of Sinclair junque. I hope other help keep the bidding high, not because of the actual value of the parts, but to but extra money into the treasury. (I know I would like to get a bearclaw or two or some half and half at a few more meetings; without breaking the bank.)

SINCLAIR MS DOS COMPUTER REVIEW

By: Robert Cazares

You may remember the rumors that abounded about an MS-DOS Sinclair computer. While they may have been just rumors in recent months, an MS-DOS Sinclair machine looks like it will be a reality. How do I know of this exotic 4.5 pound machine? Well, I actually touched one, almost. What I did get to touch with my Sinclair weaned fingers was a PSION MC 200 and MC 400. You remember PSION don't you? They made the bundled software package that came with every Sinclair QL. MC is an acronym for Mobile Computer. The MC 200 and MC 400 run under a Graphics User Interface called the 'OPL' operating system, which is another acronym for Psion's 'own programming language'. 'OPL' combines the simplicity of 'BASIC' with the structure of 'C'.

The MC 600 is the machine some of us are waiting for, but is not available at this time. It is an MS-DOS compatible computer which runs under MS DOS 3.22 and is stored on internal ROM, has a full sized 640 x 200 CGA retardation film LCD black and white screen, 768K RAM, and a solid state 1 Mbyte RAM disk with it's own back-up battery. According to the brochure, the internal ROM operating system can be upgraded. Four MS DOS-standard solid state disks can be plugged in to give up to 2 Mbytes off-line storage(soon to be 8 Mbytes). All three computers use Flash Eprom solid state disks(SSDs) for off-line storage. The Flash Eproms are about the size of a matchbook(2 1/2" x 1 3/4" x 3/16"). Four eproms can be plugged in at one time. Flash Eproms are available with 128K, 256K, or 512K. 1 and 2 meg Eproms are said to be available soon(sound familiar Z-88 users?).

The MC 600 uses a 16 bit CMOS Static Intel 80C86 processor running at 4.77 or 7.68 Mhz. A 1 Mbyte internal RAM disk is also available. In the MC 200 and MC 400 computer there is a built in text processor, personal and business database, diary and time manager, scientific calculator, and a 'teletype' terminal emulator. Two expansion slots are provided one of which is fitted with a removable module containing RS232 serial and parallel ports. Other modules such as a Quad Modem, Magnetic Card Swipe Reader, Bar Code Reader, Fax, and Pager can be inserted in the expansion slots. The Quad Modem is a quadruple standard modem(V21, V22, V22bis, V23) and includes MNP5 error correction and data compression. It is controlled using an extended Hayes command set. Also, a custom version of LAPLINK III is built in to provide extremely fast direct file access and file transfers with PCs. You can also hook up an external monitor to the MC 600. The MC 600 also has the standard F1-F10 keys which the MC 200 and 400 lack.

The difference between the MC 200 and 400 is slim. The MC 200 has a 640 x 200 supertwist LCD blue and white display, 256K Flash Eprom, and 128K of RAM while the MC 400 has a 640 x 400 Retardation Film LCD in black and white, 256K Flash Eprom, and 256K of RAM.

While the Sinclair logo is nowhere to be found, questions to the PSION trade show vendor revealed with a chuckle that Clive Sinclair indeed had a hand in designing these machines. I have to admit, the computers are suspiciously Sinclair looking as they are in the traditional Sinclair black.

When will this new machine be available? According to the vendor sometime in October 1990. Anyone wanting more information can call International Laser Systems at 1-800-333-5610 or 1-206-878-4994. Call and ask for the Psion Mobile Computer catalog.

So there you have it, the first review of the Sinclair MS DOS computer. And stop drooling on my shoes please!

WANTED!!!

96 tpi disk drive.
Double side, Quad density
5.25" Working cond. please

Contact: Robert Cazares
(206)789-3275

$ FOR SALE $

$ $

Timex computers and hardware. Complete 2068 with Zebra disk drive system. 5 drives, all software included. T/S 1000 with 16 K Ram pack and software. T/S 2050 modem, T/S 2040 printer, books, and mics.

Complete package #250.00 or o.b.o.

Jim Balazic
Mon.-Wed. between 10a-6p
(206)881-5864

SWYM

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SUBSCRIPTIONS for non-Seattle area users are only $10/yr, to SWYM, c/o Dave Battershill, Treasurer, P.O. Box 64462 Tacoma, WA 98464. Free exchanges are made between other related clubs via the newsletter exchange program.

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ARTICLE CONTRIBUTIONS are welcomed and encouraged. Use a variety of formats. Of course, the Pixel Print format is preferable. If used, make a tape copy and mail to Chuck Kereluck. For repeat contributers, mailed tapes will be returned. For modem users, articles (in either 2068 or IBM format) may be uploaded to PHOTOSYNTHESIS (206)782-7492. 24 hours 8,1,N.

Typed, 8-1/2" X 11" text is acceptable. If diagrams are included, use a large mailer to accommodate the unfolded size. Articles supplied on ZEBRA FDD or IBM PC 5-1/4" or 3-1/2" disks are also acceptible. These will be returned to the author.

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